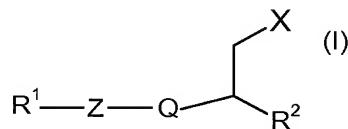


**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

What is claimed is:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A compound of formula (I):



wherein:

$R^1$  is optionally substituted  $-C_{4-12}$  alkyl,  $-C_{2-10}$  alkylcycloalkyl,  $C_{2-6}$  alkylheterocycloalkyl,  $-C_{2-6}$  alkylaryl, optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl with the proviso that  $R^2$  is not pyridinyl;

$Z$  is a bond,  $\text{CH}_2$ ,  $\text{O}$ ,  $\text{S}$ ,  $\text{SO}_2$ ,  $\text{NR}^4$ ,  $\text{OCR}^4\text{R}^5$  or  $\text{CR}^4\text{R}^5\text{O}$ ; or  $Z$ ,  $R^1$  and  $Q$  together form an optionally substituted fused tricyclic group;

$Q$  is an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl ring;

$X$  is  $\text{COR}^3$ ,

$R^2$  is  $\text{CONH}_2$ ,  $\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ ,  $\text{CO}_2\text{R}^7$ ,  $\text{SO}_2\text{R}^7$  or  $\text{SO}_2\text{NR}^8\text{R}^9$ ,

~~provided that  $R^2$  is not  $\text{CO}_2\text{R}^7$ , when  $X$  is  $\text{CONH}_2$ ;~~

$R^3$  is  $\text{OR}^6$  or  $\text{NR}^8\text{R}^9$ ;

$R^4$  and  $R^5$  each independently is  $\text{H}$ ,  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl or  $C_{1-4}$  alkylaryl;

~~$R^6$  is  $\text{H}$  or  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl;~~

~~$R^7$  is  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl; and~~

~~$R^8$  and  $R^9$  each independently is  $\text{H}$  or  $C_{1-6}$  alkyl; or  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a 5- or 6- membered ring which may optionally include 1 or more further heteroatoms selected from  $\text{O}$ ,  $\text{S}$  and  $\text{N}$ ; or~~

physiologically functional derivatives thereof,

provided that formula (I) compounds are not:

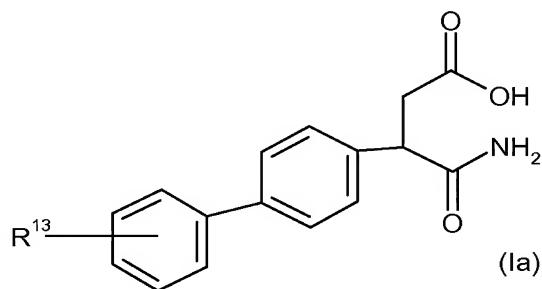
[3-(acetylamino)-4-cyclohexylphenyl]-butanedioic acid and 3-(acetylamino)-4-cyclohexylphenyl]-butanedioic acid diethyl ether;

butanedioic acid [3-methoxy-4-(phenylmethoxy)phenyl]; or

butanedioic acid [4-(phenylmethoxy)phenyl]; and

further provided that when R<sup>1</sup> is C<sub>4-12</sub>alkyl, Z is other than a bond, O or CH<sub>2</sub>, or physiologically functional derivatives thereof.

2. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein X is CO<sub>2</sub>H and R<sup>2</sup> represents CONH<sub>2</sub>.
3. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein Q is an unsubstituted phenyl.
4. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein Z represents a bond or O.
5. (Previously Presented) A compound as claimed in claim 1 of formula (Ia):

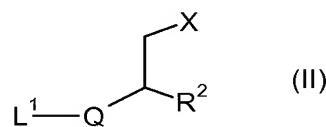


wherein R<sup>13</sup> is H, halo, CF<sub>3</sub>, -OCF<sub>3</sub>, cyano, nitro, OR<sup>14</sup>, SR<sup>15</sup> or COR<sup>16</sup>; and R<sup>14</sup>, R<sup>15</sup>, R<sup>16</sup> independently are H, C<sub>1-6</sub> alkyl or C<sub>1-4</sub> alkylaryl; or physiologically functional derivatives thereof.

6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled).
8. (Cancelled)
9. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

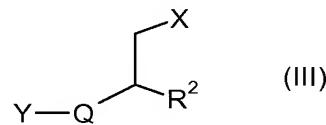
10. **(Previously Presented)** A process for preparation of compounds of formula (I) as defined in claim 1, wherein the process comprises:

(A) preparing a compound of formula (I), wherein Z is a bond and R<sup>1</sup> is an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl, by reacting a compound of formula (II):



wherein R<sup>2</sup>, Q and X are as previously defined for formula (I) and L<sup>1</sup> is a leaving group, with a reagent suitable to introduce the group R<sup>1</sup>; or

(B) (i) preparing a compound of formula (I), wherein Z is O, S, SO, SO<sub>2</sub>, NR<sup>4</sup> or OCR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>, by reacting a compound of formula (III):



wherein R<sup>2</sup>, Q and X are as previously defined for formula (I) and Y is OH, SH, NHR<sup>4</sup> or HOCHR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>, with a compound of formula (IV):



wherein R<sup>1</sup> is defined above for compounds of formula (I) and L<sup>2</sup> represents a leaving group; and

(ii) wherein Y is -SH, optionally followed by oxidizing the Y group to the corresponding SO or SO<sub>2</sub> group as required; or

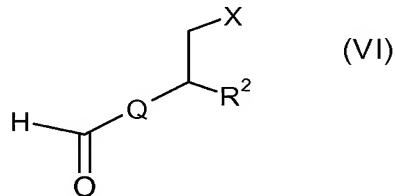
(C) preparing a compound of formula (I), wherein Z is -CR<sup>4</sup>R<sup>5</sup>O-, by reacting a compound of formula (III), wherein Y is -OH, with a compound of formula (V):



wherein  $R^1$   $R^4$ ,  $R^5$  are defined above for compounds of formula (I) and  $L^3$  represents a leaving group; or

(D) preparing a compound of formula (I), wherein  $Z$  is  $CH_2$  and  $R^1$  is an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl, by reacting

(i) a compound of formula (VI):



wherein  $Q$ ,  $X$  and  $R^2$  are as defined above, with an optionally substituted 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl nucleophile, which is a compound of formula (VII):



(VII)

wherein  $A$  is a 5- or 6- membered aryl or heteroaryl,  $R^{17}$  is  $H$  or one or more substituents and  $M$  is a metal and

(ii) reducing and eliminating a resultant or product alcohol formed from step (i); and,

(E) optionally deprotecting compounds of formula (I) with a protecting group.